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Signature

Ashoka K Shukla

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each submitted paper.Total no. of Pages 3 incl. ThisTitle: Incision-Based FILTRATION/SEPARATION
PIPETTE TIP

Inventors: Ashoka K Shukla et al.

Serial No. 09/591,009

Att. with: 1723

Examiner: E. THERKORN

Filing date: 06/09/00

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Patent Application of: Ashok K. Shukla, et.al.

Serial No. 09/591,009

Art Unit: 1723

Filing Date: 06/09/00

Examiner: THERKORN, E

Title: INCISION-BASED FILTRATION/SEPARATION PIPETTE TIP

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Patent and Trade Mark Office
Washington DC 20231

Date: July 18, 2002

In response to communication mailed on 04/18/02.

Examiner has rejected our explanation based on comparisons with Valaskovic patent (US 6190,559). But the two devices are entirely different.

- Valaskovic patent has a column where the end of the column from where the slurry is drawn into the column is much bigger (several times the diameter of the particles) than the size of the packing material. Whereas, in our device, one end of the tube has a very fine slit or perforation, much smaller than the size of the packing particle so there is no scope for it to escape the tube even under pressure during sample preparation.
- Valaskovic patent uses capillary action to fill the tube whereas in our device, we load it from the wide open end.
- Valskovic patent uses the method of slow evaporation to pack the column once the slurry has been drawn into the column. In our case, the column is loaded from the wide-open end and the solvent escapes through the perforation or slit much smaller than the size of the particle without any fear of losing the material even under pressure or vacuum application.

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- We are ready to add in our claim 1 that columns are packed using pressure or vacuum.
- We have talked to several scientists who use our product and they are also of the opinion that this product is very unique and new in the market and no such device is available in the market. If required we can get letters from these scientists.

No new matter has been added and a withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me. (Tel 410 997 0301)

Thanking you in advance for all your cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,


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